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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,411	01/22/2004	Yoshitaka Sasaki	112837.01	3310
25944	7590	03/10/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			GOMA, TAWFIK A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2653	
DATE MAILED: 03/10/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/761,411	SASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tawfik Goma	2653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment filed on 11/30/2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi et al (US Patent 6493194) in view of Pinarbasi (US Patent 6813121).

Regarding claims 1 and 3, Sakaguchi discloses a magnetoresistive device (fig. 3) comprising: a magnetoresistive element (4, fig. 3) having two surfaces that face toward opposite directions and two side portions; a pair of bias field applying layers (5, fig. 3) that are adjacent to the side portions of the magnetoresistive element and apply a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive element; and a pair of electrode layers that feed a current used for signal detection to the magnetoresistive element (6, 7 fig. 3 and col. 8 lines 25-42), each of the electrode layers being adjacent to one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element (fig. 3), wherein: the pair of electrode layers include: a pair of first layers (6d, fig. 3) each being laid over part of the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element; and a pair of second layers (7, fig. 3) overlapping the pair of first layers and electrically connected to the pair of first layers (col. 8 lines 25-42); the pair of first layers have a pair of end portions opposed to each other (fig. 3), and a pair of side portions located at positions corresponding to the side portions of the

magnetoresistive element (fig. 3); and the pair of first layers each do not extend onto the one of the surfaces of each of the bias field applying layers (fig. 3).

Sakaguchi further discloses wherein the second electrode layer's end portion corresponds to the end portion of the first electrode layer (fig. 3), however Sakaguchi fails to disclose a pair of covering layers for covering the pair of second layers, the pair of covering layers having a pair of end portions that are opposed to each other and located at positions corresponding to the pair of end portions of the pair of first layers. In the same field of endeavor, Pinarbasi (US Patent 6813121) discloses a pair of laminated electrode layers (36A, 36B, fig. 2), which includes a cover layer (38 and 39, fig. 2) for covering the second layer (37, fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the MR head taught by Sakaguchi with a laminated electrode layer as taught by Pinarbasi. The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide a laminated electrode structure in order to improve the conductivity of the electrode (see abstract of Pinarbasi). The laminated electrode's cover layer (38, 39) would have end portions that correspond to end portions of the first electrode layer since Sakaguchi's electrode layer has an end portion that corresponds to the end portions of the first electrode layer.

Further regarding claim 3, Sakaguchi further discloses a medium-facing surface that faces a recording medium (fig. 3).

Regarding claims 2 and 4, Sakaguchi in view of Pinarbasi disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claims 1 and 3). Sakaguchi further discloses a protection layer for protecting the magnetoresistive element, the protection layer being

located between the one of the surfaces of the magnetoresistive element and the first layers (6c, fig. 3).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

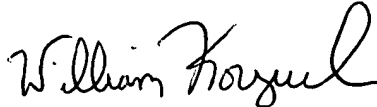
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tawfik Goma whose telephone number is (571) 272-4206. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

T. Goma
2/8/2006


WILLIAM KORZUCH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600